Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), earlier at Allahabad and now at Lucknow, U.P. are collection, classification and evaluation of fish genetic resources; cataloguing of genotypes; maintenance and preser - vation of fish genetic material; conservation of endangered fish species and monitoring the introduction of exotic fish species.

The Bureau was set up to achieve the above objectives.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The question does not arise.

National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources

537. SHRI LAKHIRAM AGARWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) when was the Indian Council of Agricultural Research's Institute 'National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources' (NBFGR) opened at Allahabad and when was the Institute started to search land for erection of its infrastructure ;

(b) how much expenditure has been incurred by NBFGR towards Land Selecting Committee, Soil Test and Vehicles ;

(c) whether it is a fact that land with less seepage was selected by the said Committee ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that seepage rates of selected land at Allahabad and Lucknow were 12 cm and 25 cm respectively ; and

(e) if so, the circumstances under which 'NBFGR' has been shifted recently (June, 1994) to Lucknow to igher seepage land ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The NBFGR was established in December, 1983. Allahabad Development Authority allotted the land in 1987 which was found to be unsuitable and thereafter the search for land in Uttar Pradesh for erection of its infrastructure started.

(b) The expenditure incurred amounted to approximately Rs. 20,000/- for land Selection Committee, approximately Rs. 62,800/- for soil testing and approximately Rs. 44,200/- for the vehicles.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The seepage rate at Allahabad as 15.5 cm/day as observed in winter (December, 1992) whereas it was about 24.9 cm/day at Lucknow in summer (June, 1991).

(e) Whereas the seepage rates at the sites near Allahabad and in Lucknow are comparable, the site at Lucknow is the most suitable organisationally and technically.

Drought in Gujarat

538. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Saurashtra and Kutch Region in Gujarat State are affected by severe drought during this year and the people of this areas are facing acute shortage of essential commodities during these days; and

(b) if so, the immediate steps taken by Government alongwith the special assistance provided by Government to the State to save the people from starvation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) According to reports received from Govrnment of Gujarat 2562 villages in the districts of Kutch, Jamnagar, Junagarh, Rajkot and Bhavnagar have been declared as drought affected. The State Government has, however, not reported shortage of any essential commodity in the area.

(b) Government of India has released two instalments of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund for the year 1994-95 amounting to Rs. 31.875 crores in advance in order to enable the State Government undertake relief measures in the drought affected areas. The State Government has undertaken various relief measures in the affected areas including generation of additional employment; distributing cash doles to the old, children and infirm, supply of safe drinking water; and arrangement of foodder.

Pact between India and Syria in the field of Agriculture

539. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Syria have recently signed a cooperation programme in the field of agriculture and allied sectors ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Programme of Cooperation (P.O.C.) in the field of Agriculture and allied sectors between India and Syria was signed in Damascus on 19th June, 1994.

(b) The POC provides for developing cooperation in various areas of agriculture including field crops, horticulture, food processing, plant protection and quarantine, animal production and health, soil and water reasources management, agriculture extension, aquaculture and marine resources. Collaborative activities are proposed to be carried out through exchange of information, germplasm. experts, training of personnel, consultancy etc.

Milk Production

540. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation's latest 'food outlook' report, the milk production in India is likely to increase by four per cent during this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) what was the milk production in India during the last two years, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Food Outlook Report of the Food and Agriculture Organisation has indicated that milk production in developed countries is forecasted to continue to grow in 1994. In Asia the anticipated expansion is 2%. In India, the production is expected to increase by 4% in line with the growth rate in rent years.

(c) The total milk production during the last two years is as under:

(million tonnes)

1992-93 . . .	57.8 (provisional)
1993-94 . . .	60.8 (provisional)